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## <sup>135</sup> Darlington assisted living facility closes

The Carriage House shuts down, citing aging facility, regulation changes

**By Dwight Dana**

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The Carriage House, an assisted living facility, closed April 13 in Darlington because of changing regulations and the age of the facility.

David Sizemore is the regional manager of Carriage House. He lives in Easley, the corporate headquarters for the company.

A corporate news release sent by Sizemore said Carriage House Inc. continues to evaluate the company's position in the assisted living market within South Carolina.

The decision to close the Darlington location of Carriage House was made as a result of a recent assessment and the company's commitment to ensuring residents enjoy adequate

facilities and services.

The release said, "the driving factors behind this decision were the changing regulations and the amount of investment required to bring the Darlington facility to a level required to meet the needs of the current resi-

dents and the company's commitment to an appropriate standard of living. The view of the company was that the Darlington facility was no longer feasible to operate under the current status."

There were 32 residents. All have

been relocated, including about 21 to other Carriage House facilities in Florence and Hartsville.

And there were 20 employees, many of whom were part-time.

Carriage House had operated in Darlington for eight years in the former Coleman-Aimar Hospital, which was built in the 1960s.

Darlington City Administrator Rodney Langley said Friday afternoon he was sorry to see the facility close. And he was pessimistic about any other use, especially by the city, for the

building.

"From the city's standpoint," Langley said, "the amount of money it would take to bring the building up to standard to meet code and to man it would probably take it out of the range of anything the city could do from a financial standpoint at this time."

In addition to Florence and Hartsville, Carriage House has assisted living facilities in Sumter and Taylors. The chief executive officer, Michael McBride, lives in the Upstate.